

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, July 22. 1693.

Quest. 1. I Loved a Gentlewoman for her Piety and Virtue, and continued to do so for three Years, at last I proposed Marriage to her, she refused me, tho' not absolutely; I turned very Melancholly, and I wrote to her, but she gave me no satisfying returns, tho' I was not requiring Marriage, but only to speak my Thoughts to her to be eased of that Distemper, she altogether denied me any Comfort or Relief, tho' my Requests were consistent enough with Chastity and Modesty; wherefore I apprehended that she hated me, and was my Enemy; yea, her Unkindness to me was so great, that I esteemed her neither Reasonable nor Religious, tho' she be a great pretender to both, for she denied me both Common Civility and Christian Compassion; at length I was freed from my Melancholly, and it seized upon her, and now she is very willing to be married to me, but I cannot Love her otherwise than an Enemy. I have forgiven her, and done her some Kindnesses, to satisfy my own Conscience that I can do good to an Enemy: But her Proud Mind will not acknowledge her Guilt, which is the Cause of the Continuance of my Uneasiness. We are of different Humours, and both subject to Melancholly: We are both dissatisfied, and cannot agree; for I cannot Condescend to Marry one whom I cannot Cordially Love, and she cannot be satisfied except she be Married to me: *Your Advice in this Melancholly and Uneasie Matter is earnestly desired with all speed, by your Humble Servant?*

Ans. There is such an Air in this Letter, and some Circumstances besides, that would persuade us that 'tis all Trick and Pretence to make the too good Natur'd Lady believe you don't Love her, which is false; the great Haste and Uneasiness you Confess before you are aware, shows you are deeply gone, and are now making good the Lovers Proverb, that *The falling out of Lovers is but the renewing of Love*. If We were to Advise the Lady, she should reassume her first Distance, and keep you poor in Favours, and then you would know how to relish the Blessings of such a tender Friendship.

Quest. 2. Gentlemen, I am a young Gentlewoman, in the very prime of my Youth, and if my Glais flatter me not tollerably handsome, likewise Co-Heirefs of a very fair Estate; there being but two Sisters of us, to enjoy what my aged Fathers many years industry hath acquired. Tho' my Father hath ever shown himself lovingly tender, yet he hath ever had so great an awe over us, that we never durst give him the least suspicion of any ill conduct in our behaviour, he often assuring us, that nothing should so soon quench the Flame of his Paternal love, as our Deviation from the strict Rules of pure Chastity and its Handmaid Modesty; now to my utter ruin and eternal shame (if any thing unknowingly committed may be termed shameful) I am with Child; How, when, where and by whom, to my greatest grief I know not; but this alas I know too well, that the hour wherein my Father hears of it, I am disinherited of his Estate, banished his Love, &c. Gentlemen I earnestly implore you to give me some relief by solving these two Queries,

1. *Whether it is possible for a Woman so carnally to know a man in her sleep as to conceive, for I am sure this and no other way I was got with Child?*

2. *Whether it may be lawful to use means to put a stop to this growing mischief, and kill it in the Embryo; this being the only way to avert the Thunderclap of my Fathers Indignation.*

Ans. To the first Question, Madam, we are very positive, that you are luckily mistaken, for the thing is absolutely impossible if you know nothing of it; indeed we have an Account of a Widdow that made such a pretence, and she might have better credit than a Maid, who can

have no Plea, but dead drunk, or in some swooning fit, and our Physicians will hardly allow a possibility of the thing then. So that you may let your heart at rest, and think no more of the matter, unless for your diversion.

Ans. As to the 2d. Question, such practices are Murder, and those that are so unhappy as to come under such Circumstances, if they use the forementioned means, will certainly one day find the Remedy worse than the Disease. There are wiser methods to be taken in such Cases, as a small Journey, and a Confident. And afterwards such a pious and good Life as may redress such an heavy misfortune.

Quest. 3. Gentlemen, It was my Fortune about four or five years ago (I in a mean Station) to be Conversant with an Ingenious Gentlewoman, whose Husband had been absent then four or five years, or more in Captivity; and by her supposed to be dead. Our modest Familiarity being great, and returns of Courtesie being Reciprocal, begat the discoveries of some Secrets to each other: I acquainted her with my Invitations to Court a Person of her Acquaintance, and desired her Approbation: She out of modesty seemed to approve highly of it, but observing her Countenance alter several times in the very Minute she spake, made me retract my former purpose, and apply my self instantly to her. She generously grants my request, provided she were Certified of her Widdowhood in a certain Term of Years (not yet expired) on these Conditions a Promise of Marriage was made to each other.

Now contrary to our Expectation, she is Certified of her Husbands Life, (tho' never like to return.) *Is our former Covenant Obligatory or not; and may I wish Honour and Equity quit it or not: I having now an offer of double her Fortune, tho' far short of her excellent Endowments?*

Ans. In the Relation, you say that she generously granted your Request, upon Supposition that after such a Term of years she should be persuaded of her Widdowhood. Which you also say is now prov'd the contrary, so that if any Question can be askt about it, it might properly be this, *Where's the Difficulty?* If the Promise was mutually made upon such a Supposition, which now is frustrate, nothing is more evident than that the Promise is so too. But some People are very willing to believe what they would have be, and every little excuse and appearance of Argument becomes Conclusive because of the prejudice.

Quest. 4. I have for above a year last past, almost in every Night, Dream'd a Dream, that has been always one and the same Dream. viz. I fancied my self in Company discoursing with a Gentlewoman, whom I have not seen nor heard of these seven years, yet formerly I was very well acquainted with her, but never had any more Love for her, than she I never saw, and is, when I am awake, the very least of my Thoughts, except the remembrance of my Dream. Gentlemen, I speak it of a certain Truth, seldom has a night pass'd, wherein I have not Dreamt of her, especially for these three Weeks last, I can safely say, that I have dreamt of her every Night, thinking my self talking with her, I humbly desire your Opinion herein, and what you think it may portend: For it very much dissatisfies me?

Ans. We are so far from pretending to Interpretation of Dreams, that we think there's nothing in 'em. Any business that ones Mind has been intent upon in the day time, will certainly be represented by the Fancy in the Night, the Impression being left behind; but where dreams come that are wholly unaccountable, and that have no dependance of any thing done before hand, or things which perhaps we never heard of in Nature, these are wholly owing

owing to the Constitution and Temperament of the Body, as the Melancholy Dreams of Spirits, Death, Precipices, Waters, &c. the Sanguine of Fighting, Flying in the Air, &c. and so of the rest. Not but that sometimes our Tutelary Angels do suggest things in our Sleep which are of Consequence, most commonly for the avoiding of some eminent dangers, Death of Parents, Children, &c. and other things; the best and safest Curiosity in all these Cases, is to live well, and be always prepar'd for all Occurrences whatever.

Quest. 5. It is well known that the direct Rule of Three in Arithmetick consists of three Numbers, whereof the two Extrems are of one and the same Denomination, and the middle of different Denomination, and that the manner of Working a Question by that Rule is, by multiplying the middle Number, either by the greater or lesser of the two Extrems, according as the Question requires, and dividing the Product thereof by the other of the two Extrems, and the Quotient, if the Work be rightly done, will infallibly Answer the Question truly: As for Example,

If 16 Men shall have 8 l. equally divided between them, how many Pounds shall 4 Men have?

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \hline 32 \quad (2 \text{ — Answer. 4 Men shall have 2 l.} \\ 16 \end{array}$$

And so it is of any other Question, how many soever the Numbers be of each Denomination, and whatsoever the Proportion be which is sought.

Query, Wherein doth the Reason of the Rule lye? to me it seemeth difficult to Answer, considering the manner of working it; for in multiplying 8 l. by 4, the Pounds are quadrupled; and by dividing 32 l. the Product, by 16. they are reduced to one quarter of their true Number: How comes it to pass that this manner of working, in which two extravagant things are done, should rightly Answer the Question?

Answer. We desire for the future to be disengaged from these trivial Questions in Arithmetick. The Rule of Three depends on this,

§. I. The Ratio of two Numbers is the Quote of one divided by the other, as the Ratio of 8 to 4 is 2, or 2, the Ratio here is duple. The Ratio of 4 to 8 is $\frac{1}{2}$ or subduple.

§. II. If a Number multiply two Numbers, the Products shall be in Proportion to the Numbers multiply'd by the 17th. Prop. of the 7th. of Euclid, let the Numbers be 4 and 2, and let 3. multiply them both, then 3×4 (or 12) 3×2 (or 6) :: 4. 2 therefore the Product of the Means and Extrems will be equal, for $3 \times 4 \times 2 = 3 \times 2 \times 4$.

§. III. Hence arises the Rule of Three, if the second Term multiply the third, and that Product be divided by the first, the result will be the fourth Term; for Instance, As 2. 3 :: 4 to a fourth Proportional, which call *a*. then $2. 3 :: 4. a$. but the latter end of §. II. $2 \times 4 = 3 \times a$. Now divide each part of the Equation

by two, then there will arise $a = \frac{2 \times 4}{2}$, which was asserted.

The Argument against *Deism*, promis'd as this Day, cannot be inserted here 'till next Tuesday sennight, when the Publick shall not fail of being presented with it.

☞ The MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL in Adams Court in Broad-street, near the Royal Exchange, London, is now Open'd; where Algebra, Geometry, and all the usual parts of the Mathematicks will be Taught. By R. Sault, Math. Profess. Those that desire, may be Instructed abroad. Youth Boarded. The Undertaker Obliges himself to Teach by Letters in any place in England, with the same Expedition and Success as by a Personal Attendance, when once a Correspondence is settled.

Advertisements.

The History of Father La Chaise, Jesuite, and Confessor to Lewis XIV. present King of France, Discovering the Secret Intreagues by him carried on, as well in the Court of England as in all the Courts of Europe, to advance the Great Designs of the King his Master. Made English from the French Original: Is Licensed and Entered, and will be suddenly Published by Hen. Rhodes at the Star, the Corner of Bride-Lane in Fleet-street.

☞ The Tenth Volume of the Athenian Mercury, with a general Title, Preface and Index to it, is now Publisht, Resolving all the most Nice and Curious Questions proposed by the Ingenious of Either Sex, from Saturday, April 8th. to Tuesday, July 11th. 1693. This 10th. Volume, together with the 6th, 7th, 8th. and 9th. Volumes, Compleat the ENTIRE SETT of Athenian Mercuries for the Year 1692. Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry: Of whom is to be had the Entire Sett of Athenian Mercuries and Supplements to 'em for the Year 1691. or single Volumes to this time.

☞ A New Discovery of that unknown part of the Earth, call'd Terra Incognita Australis, or the Southern World. By JAMES SADEUR a French-man: Who being cast there by a Shipwrack, liv'd 35 Years in that Countrey. These Memoirs were thought so Curious that they were kept Secret in the Cabinet of a late great Minister of State, and never Publisht 'till now since his Death. Translated from the French Copy printed at Paris by Publick Authority. Licensed and Entered according to Order. Price Bound 1 s.

Printed for J. Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

Numb. 1. The Gentleman's Journal for the WAR; being a Description of the Fortified Cities and Towns of Europe. Thursday, July 13. 1693. Printed for Randal Taylor near Stationers-Hall.

A Maidenhead in the County of Berks, twenty two Miles from London, is a good accustomed Inn, known for many Years by the Name of the White-Heart, with a Brew-house, Stables, and other Conveniences, to be Lett. Enquire of Mr. Richard Devon at Reigate in Surrey, or of Mr. John Roades, in Seething-lane, London; or of Mr. James Gumm, Brick-layer in Maidenhead aforesaid.

LONDON, Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, 1693.